General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 September 2017

Seventy-first session
Agenda item 121

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 8 September 2017

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/71/1007)*]

71/323. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/305 of 13 September 2016 and all other previous resolutions relating to the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly,[1]

Acknowledging that resolution 70/305 constitutes an important landmark for the strengthening of the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the General Assembly as established by the Charter of the United Nations, in particular regarding the strengthening of the accountability, transparency and institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly,

Mindful of the milestone achievements in the course of 2015, in particular the adoption by the General Assembly of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[2] and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[3] as well as the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[4]

Underlining the need to further enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the General Assembly,

Reiterating that the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly is a critical component of the overall reform of the United Nations,

Emphasizing the need to align the agenda of the General Assembly in full support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recognizing the role of the General Assembly in addressing issues of peace and security, in accordance with the Charter, and acknowledging its role and authority, established in Article 10 of the Charter, to make recommendations to the Members of the United Nations or to the Security Council or to both, on questions or matters within the scope of the Charter, except as provided in Article 12 thereof,

---

[1] Resolutions 46/77, 47/233, 48/264, 51/241, 52/163, 55/14, 55/285, 56/509, 57/300, 57/301, 58/126, 58/316, 59/313, 60/286, 61/292, 62/276, 63/309, 64/301, 65/315, 66/294, 67/297, 68/307 and 69/321.

[2] Resolution 70/1.

[3] Resolution 69/313, annex.

[4] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

Please recycle

Reaffirming the central position of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations, as well as the role of the Assembly in the process of standard-setting and the codification of international law,

Reaffirming also the role and authority of the General Assembly in global matters of concern to the international community, including in global governance, as set out in the Charter,

Mindful that we have yet to achieve full gender and geographical balance within the United Nations, while welcoming the ongoing intergovernmental efforts in this regard, and convinced of the need to guarantee equal opportunities for women and men from all regional groups in their access to senior decision-making positions, including to the post of Secretary-General, bearing in mind the need to secure the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity,

Welcoming the conclusion of the process of selection and appointment of the ninth Secretary-General, which was characterized by an enhanced degree of transparency, accountability and inclusivity, in accordance with resolutions 69/321 of 11 September 2015 and 70/305,

Welcoming also the fact that women constituted more than half of all of the candidates for Secretary-General presented by Member States in accordance with resolution 69/321, and emphasizing the need to strive for gender balance in the selection of other executive heads,

Affirming that the work of the President of the General Assembly and of the Office of the President of the General Assembly shall be guided by the principles of universality, objectivity, non-selectivity, constructive international dialogue and cooperation,

Welcoming the efforts of the President of the General Assembly to reinvigorate the revitalization of the work of the Assembly during its seventy-first session,

Taking note of the observations and proposals on improving the working methods of the Main Committees of the General Assembly made by the Chairs of the Main Committees at the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly thematic meeting on working methods held on 28 March 2017,[5]

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly and the updated inventory of Assembly resolutions on revitalization annexed thereto;[5]

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the multilingual web page devoted to the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, accessible directly from the United Nations website, which exists in all six official languages, and invites the Secretariat to continue updating regularly and equally that web page and its substantive content in a cost-effective manner;

3. *Decides* to establish, at its seventy-second session, an ad hoc working group on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, open to all Member States:

(*a*) To identify further ways to enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the Assembly, inter alia, by building on the progress achieved in past

[5] See A/71/1007.

sessions as well as on previous resolutions, including evaluating the status of their implementation;

(*b*) To submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its seventy-second session;

4. *Also decides* that the Ad Hoc Working Group shall continue its review of the inventory of General Assembly resolutions on revitalization annexed to the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group submitted at the seventy-first session and, as a result, continue to update the inventory to be attached to the report to be submitted at the seventy-second session of the Assembly;

5. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[6] and requests the Secretary-General to submit an update on the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions on revitalization addressed to the Secretariat for implementation that have not been implemented, with an indication of the constraints and reasons behind any lack of implementation, for further consideration by the Ad Hoc Working Group at the seventy-second session;

Role and authority of the General Assembly

6. *Reaffirms* the role and authority of the General Assembly, including on questions relating to international peace and security, in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 and 35 of the Charter of the United Nations, where appropriate, using the procedures set forth in rules 7 to 10 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, which enable swift and urgent action by the Assembly, bearing in mind that the Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, in accordance with Article 24 of the Charter;

7. *Recognizes* that implementation of General Assembly resolutions, including those related to the revitalization of its work, enhances the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the Assembly, and underlines the important role and responsibility of Member States in their full implementation;

8. *Reaffirms* that the relationship between the principal organs of the United Nations is mutually reinforcing and complementary, in accordance with and with full respect for their respective functions, authority, powers and competencies as enshrined in the Charter, as demonstrated through the joint activity of the Presidents of the Security Council and the General Assembly in the process of the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General during the seventieth and seventy-first sessions, and in this regard stresses the importance of further ensuring increased cooperation, coordination and the exchange of information among the Presidents of the principal organs and also with the Secretariat, in particular the Secretary-General;

9. *Recalls* the practice of holding periodic informal briefings by the Secretary-General on his priorities, travels and most recent activities, including his participation in international meetings and events organized outside the United Nations, and invites the Secretary-General to continue this practice;

10. *Welcomes* the establishment of an interactive and comprehensive dialogue between the Permanent Missions and the Secretariat, as mandated in resolution 70/305, aimed at improving the work of the Secretariat in its interaction

[6] A/71/780.

with the Permanent Missions, and requests the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group to continue to convene the interactive dialogue within the framework of the Ad Hoc Working Group, aimed at:

(*a*) Identifying issues in the interaction of the Secretariat with the Permanent Missions;

(*b*) Identifying solutions in better meeting the needs and requirements of the Permanent Missions regarding standard operating procedures used at United Nations Headquarters in New York;

11. *Decides* that thematic dialogues shall be held periodically during the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group, and also decides to review this arrangement at the seventy-third session of the General Assembly;

12. *Requests* the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group to circulate to Member States and the Secretariat the issues raised during the official meetings of the Ad Hoc Working Group in order to receive written feedback from the Secretariat on concerns raised by the Permanent Missions, and also requests the Co-Chairs to circulate a written summary of the interactive and comprehensive dialogues;

13. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the active participation by the Secretariat during the seventy-first session, and in particular:

(*a*) Notes with appreciation the creation of a focal point in the Department of Management with the objective of facilitating the interaction between Permanent Missions and the Secretariat;

(*b*) Calls for swift implementation of the "one-stop-shop" arrangement within the Secretariat to provide a single entry point for requesting meetings services, with a self-service interface that will enhance coordination among service providers at United Nations Headquarters in New York, while encouraging the Secretariat to make similar arrangements for other services provided;

14. *Reaffirms* the importance and benefit of continuing interaction between the General Assembly and international or regional forums and organizations dealing with global matters of concern to the international community, as well as with civil society, where appropriate, and encourages the exploration of appropriate actions or measures, while fully respecting the intergovernmental nature of the Assembly, in conformity with its relevant rules of procedure;

15. *Recognizes* the value of holding interactive inclusive thematic debates on current issues of critical importance to the international community, and calls upon the President of the General Assembly to organize such debates in close consultation with the General Committee and the Member States, including with regard to the frequency and preliminary programme of such debates, in order to enable an adequate level of participation and an appropriate allocation of time for substantive interactive discussion during the debates so as to enable all interested delegations to state their positions and to facilitate, where appropriate, results-oriented and productive outcomes of such debates, and in this context welcomes the initiative of the President of the Assembly at its seventy-first session to select "The Sustainable Development Goals: a universal push to transform our world" as the theme of the general debate;

16. *Requests*, in this regard, the President of the General Assembly to limit high-level meetings to current issues of critical importance to the international community, with the interest of the wider membership in mind and with a focus on the most vulnerable, while encouraging the allocation of events of a strictly sectoral or thematic nature to the six Main Committees;

17. *Commends* improvements in the quality of the annual report of the Security Council to the General Assembly, including as presented in the note by the President of the Security Council,[7] and welcomes the willingness of the Council to continue to consider other suggestions concerning improvements to the annual report;

18. *Invites* the Secretariat, including the Department of Public Information, while carrying out its activities, as mandated by the General Assembly, to continue its efforts to raise the visibility of the Assembly and to enhance world public and media awareness of the contribution made by the Assembly to the fulfilment of the goals of the Organization, as set out in the Charter;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General, under relevant agenda items, to bring to the attention of the Member States constraints that have prevented the Secretary-General from implementing those provisions of General Assembly resolutions that are addressed to the Secretariat;

Working methods

20. *Reaffirms* existing relevant mandates related to the improvement of the working methods of the Main Committees, including section C of the annex to resolution 58/316 of 1 July 2004, paragraphs 7 to 13 of resolution 59/313 of 12 September 2005, cluster III of the annex to resolution 60/286 of 8 September 2006 and resolution 69/321, in particular paragraphs 16 and 17 thereof;

21. *Requests* each Main Committee to further discuss its working methods at the beginning of every session, and in this regard invites the Chairs of the Main Committees to brief the Ad Hoc Working Group during the seventy-second session on any best practices and lessons learned with a view to improving working methods, as appropriate;

22. *Recalls* section C, paragraph 3, of the annex to its resolution 58/316, requests the Chairs of the Main Committees to organize handover meetings of the outgoing and incoming bureaux to exchange views on outcomes and the upcoming agenda, and invites the Chairs of the Main Committees to present a report to their successors on best practices and lessons learned;

23. *Invites* the President-elect of the General Assembly to meet with the incoming members of the General Committee before the beginning of the regular session in order to review the proposed programme of work of the Main Committees, with a view to increasing their efficiency and improving complementarity;

24. *Calls* for the six Chairs of the Main Committees to meet periodically during the session of the General Assembly to share best practices and increase the coherence and complementarity of the work of the Main Committees,

25. *Welcomes* efforts to afford elected members of the Security Council appropriate opportunities to prepare for their tenure, and also welcomes the note by the President of the Security Council in which the elected Council members are invited to observe some of its meetings and activities as from 1 October immediately preceding their term of membership;[8]

---

[7] S/2015/944.

[8] S/2016/619.

26. *Emphasizes* that the General Assembly and its Main Committees, at the seventy-second session, in consultation with Member States, should continue their consideration of and make proposals for the further biennialization, triennialization, clustering and elimination of items on the agenda of the Assembly, including through the introduction of a sunset clause, with the clear consent of the sponsoring State or States, taking into account the relevant recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group;

27. *Recalls* its resolution 48/264 of 29 July 1994, by which it adopted the Guidelines on the Rationalization of the Agenda of the General Assembly;

28. *Also recalls* the need to enhance synergies and coherence and reduce overlap where it is found to exist in the agendas of the General Assembly, especially of its Second and Third Committees, the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, and the work of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Council and the Assembly, as well as all other related forums, in accordance with relevant rules of procedure and in the light of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[2] and calls for the continuation of such efforts during the seventy-second session of the Assembly;

29. *Requests* the General Committee, while exercising its functions under rule 40 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, to pay special attention to reduction of such overlap;

30. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-second session to identify proposals, through consultations with all Member States and the President of the Economic and Social Council, as well as through the convening of the General Committee, aimed at addressing gaps and duplication in the agenda of the Assembly as they relate to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, taking into account the report on the strategic alignment of future sessions of the Assembly and other relevant inputs, for the consideration of Member States during the seventy-third session of the Assembly;

31. *Recalls* rules 153 and 154 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, and encourages the Chairs of the Main Committees and the Secretary-General to ensure observance of these rules, within their respective mandates;

32. *Also recalls* rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, and calls for strict adherence by each speaker to the time limits in the Assembly, where applicable, and in particular during the general debate, the high-level meetings of the Assembly and the high-level thematic debates convened by the President of the General Assembly;

33. *Invites* the Chairs of meetings of the General Assembly and United Nations conferences, especially when there is very limited time available for debate, to consider recommending the "all protocol observed" principle, whereby participants are encouraged to refrain from listing standard protocol expressions during their statements;

34. *Decides* to continue to consider ways to rationalize the number of side events held during the high-level segment of the general debate, bearing in mind the need to enhance its decorum and significance, and encourages the scheduling of side events at United Nations Headquarters outside of the hours when the general debate is being held;

35. *Requests* the Secretariat to provide a tool to allow Member States and the United Nations system to upload and publish information about side events organized by them at United Nations Headquarters throughout the year;

36. *Decides* that the general debate and the thematic meetings of the Ad Hoc Working Group shall be webcast;

37. *Recalls* its resolutions 1898 (XVIII) of 11 November 1963, 2837 (XXVI) of 17 December 1971, 45/45 of 28 November 1990, 51/241 of 31 July 1997, 58/126 of 19 December 2003 and 58/316, and calls upon the President of the General Assembly to make full use of the General Committee throughout the session, with a view to reviewing the programme of work of the Assembly and its Main Committees, in line with rule 42 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly;

38. *Reiterates its invitation* to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the Chairs of the Main Committees, in consultation with the General Committee and Member States, to enhance the coordination of the scheduling of the meetings of the Assembly, including high-level meetings and high-level thematic debates, with a view to optimizing their interactivity, effectiveness and distribution throughout the session, and to consider ways to decrease the number of high-level events held during the general debate;

39. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, in order to enhance transparency, to attach the list of speakers at high-level thematic debates organized by the President to the summary of those events;

40. *Encourages* the scheduling of future high-level meetings during the first half of the year, from within existing resources, taking into account the calendar of conferences and without prejudice to the current practice of convening one high-level meeting in September at the beginning of each session of the General Assembly;

41. *Decides* that, with sufficient time before the opening of each regular or special session of the General Assembly, the Secretariat, in particular its protocol and security services, shall hold discussions with all Member States on all aspects related to the organization of the high-level segment of the general debate and any other activities that may have special organizational requirements;

42. *Also decides* that, with due consideration given to accessibility issues, in all plenary meetings of the General Assembly, including plenary meetings of high-level events, the seating arrangement of Member States shall follow English alphabetical order, beginning with the name of the country selected by lot each year and avoiding distinctions between Member States as to the rank of the head of delegation;

43. *Recalls* the interim arrangement approved by the General Assembly in decision 68/505 of 1 October 2013, recommending a pattern for the rotation of the Chairs of the Main Committees until the seventy-third session of the Assembly, reiterates its request that the Ad Hoc Working Group prepare long-term arrangements concerning the election of the Chairs and Rapporteurs of the Main Committees with the aim of establishing a predictable, transparent and fair mechanism, in consultation with regional groups, and that it submit them to the Assembly no later than at its seventy-second session, and in this regard reiterates its invitation to Member States to present proposals and to devote early attention to the matter of concluding a future arrangement, which would come into effect at the seventy-fourth session of the Assembly, with the annex to resolution 68/307 of 10 September 2014 containing the guidelines on the election of the Chairs and Rapporteurs of the Main Committees to be considered in this context;

44. *Encourages* Member States to seek gender balance in the distribution of the Chairs and bureau members of the Main Committees as well as the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly, where applicable;

45. *Decides* that, during the seventy-second session of the General Assembly, the Ad Hoc Working Group shall start to consider the potential concept and scope of a code of conduct to guide the conduct of election campaigns by Member States, with a view to improving the standards of transparency, accountability and equity;

46. *Also decides* to amend rule 92 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly by deleting its second sentence;

47. *Further decides* that the names of candidates for election by the General Assembly or by the Main Committees shall be communicated to the Secretariat, where possible, at least 48 hours prior to an election unless otherwise required by specific rules governing the elections concerned, and that those names shall be printed on the ballot papers, while additional space shall be provided on the ballot paper for inscribing other names, where applicable;

48. *Decides* that on the day of election in the General Assembly or in the Main Committees the campaign materials distributed in the General Assembly Hall or in the Committee meeting room shall be limited to a single page of information regarding the candidates, with a view to preserving the decorum of the Assembly;

49. *Encourages* Member States to make, to the extent possible, full use of the e-services provided by the Secretariat, in order to save costs and reduce the environmental impact and improve the distribution of documents, and in this regard requests the Secretariat to further improve, harmonize and, where appropriate, unify such services, including by making available all the official correspondence of the United Nations addressed to the Member States;

50. *Requests* the Secretariat to explore ways to provide real-time updates with respect to the cancellation and postponement of meetings, as currently provided on the screens at United Nations Headquarters, through a user-friendly application for electronic devices, and to present possible options to the Ad Hoc Working Group during the seventy-second session of the General Assembly;

51. *Takes note with appreciation* of the cost-neutral proposals on the possible changes to the format, production and editing of the *Journal of the United Nations*, including the streamlining and digitalization of its content with a user-friendly interface, presented by the Under-Secretary General for General Assembly and Conference Management at the second thematic meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group, and in this regard decides that during the calendar year 2018, official meetings of the day, forthcoming official meetings and summaries of official meetings shall be published in the *Journal* in all six official languages;

52. *Decides* that during the calendar year 2018 all other meetings and information, contained in the remaining part of the current version of the *Journal*, shall be published in the languages currently used from January to August;

53. *Calls upon* all relevant intergovernmental bodies to review the need for and content of the *Journal* summaries of their meetings and other announcements, and to take the steps necessary with a view to ensuring a more streamlined format for the *Journal of the United Nations*;

54. *Reiterates* the need to produce the *Journal* in all six official languages in strict compliance with rule 55 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, and decides that the Ad Hoc Working Group shall review the implementation of the

decisions of the Assembly on the format, production and editing of the *Journal* during the seventy-second session, starting in March 2018;

55. *Requests* the Secretary-General to brief the Ad Hoc Working Group, on a yearly basis, on the progress achieved on the gradual extension, in a cost-neutral manner, of the information in the *Journal of the United Nations* published in the six official languages;

Selection and appointment of the Secretary-General and other executive heads

56. *Commends* the Presidents of the General Assembly at its seventieth and seventy-first sessions for their active contribution to the implementation of provisions guiding the selection and appointment of the ninth Secretary-General, as contained in resolutions 69/321 and 70/305;

57. *Reiterates* that the process of selecting and appointing the Secretary-General differs from the process used with regard to the executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations system, given the roles of the Security Council and the General Assembly in accordance with Article 97 of the Charter, and emphasizes in particular that the process of selection of the Secretary-General is guided by the principles of transparency and inclusiveness, building on the best practices and the participation of all Member States;

58. *Stresses*, in particular, the need to ensure the appointment of the best possible candidate for the post of Secretary-General, who embodies the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity and who demonstrates a firm commitment to the purposes and principles of the United Nations, proven leadership and managerial abilities, extensive experience in international relations and strong diplomatic, communication and multilingual skills;

59. *Reaffirms its commitment* to continue, in the Ad Hoc Working Group, in accordance with the provisions of Article 97 of the Charter, its thorough consideration of the issues under the third thematic cluster of the Working Group, on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, including the examination of innovative ways to improve the process of selecting and appointing the Secretary-General and other executive heads in all its aspects, and recalls all relevant resolutions, including resolutions 11 (I) of 24 January 1946, 46/77 of 12 December 1991, 47/233 of 17 August 1993, 48/264, 51/241, 52/163 of 15 December 1997, 55/14 of 3 November 2000, 55/285 of 7 September 2001, 56/509 of 8 July 2002, 57/300 of 20 December 2002, 57/301 of 13 March 2003, 58/126, 58/316, 59/313, 60/286, 61/292 of 2 August 2007, 62/276 of 15 September 2008, 63/309 of 14 September 2009, 64/301 of 13 September 2010, 65/315 of 12 September 2011, 66/294 of 17 September 2012, 67/297 of 29 August 2013, 68/307, 69/321 and 70/305, reaffirming the applicable procedures set out in the rules of procedure of the Assembly, in particular rule 141, and acknowledging existing relevant practices of the Assembly;

60. *Calls upon* the President of the General Assembly to monitor and review the implementation by the Assembly of these resolutions;

61. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General towards achieving equal and fair distribution in terms of the gender and geographical balance of the executive heads of the United Nations system and the Senior Management Group of the Organization, while securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, and requests that further effective measures be taken in this regard;

62. *Recalls* its resolution 52/12 B of 19 December 1997, in particular paragraph 2 thereof, in which it notes that the Secretary-General will appoint the Deputy Secretary-General following consultations with Member States, and stresses that the process of appointments to senior posts by the Secretary-General within the Organization should be inclusive and transparent, in accordance with relevant rules of procedure and as set out in the Charter;

63. *Stresses* the need to ensure equal and fair distribution based on gender balance and as wide a geographical basis as possible, and in this regard recalls its resolutions 46/232 of 2 March 1992 and 51/241, adopted without a vote, which contain the principles that the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity are the paramount considerations in the recruitment and performance of international civil servants and that, as a general rule, there should be no monopoly on senior posts in the United Nations system by nationals of any State or group of States;

64. *Reiterates its request* that the Secretary-General continue his ongoing efforts to ensure the attainment of equitable geographical distribution and gender balance in the Secretariat, while recalling its resolution 71/263 of 23 December 2016, in particular the paragraphs thereof related to equitable geographical distribution and gender balance;

65. *Requests* the Office of Human Resources Management of the Secretariat to provide a briefing to the Ad Hoc Working Group during the seventy-second session of the General Assembly on the gender balance and regional origin of the executive heads of the United Nations system and the Senior Management Group of the Organization;

Strengthening the accountability, transparency and institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly

66. *Commends* the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-first session for strengthening the transparency and inclusivity of his Office, including through the increased and creative use of online facilities, and for providing a financial disclosure upon assumption of office and releasing detailed information on the finances of and contributions to his Office and details on the official travel, substantive activities, staffing and activities of his Office, as mandated in resolution 70/305, and looks forward to an end-of-term report on these matters, and requests future Presidents of the Assembly to follow these good practices;

67. *Welcomes* the taking of the oath of office and the observation of the code of ethics by the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-first session, as contained in annexes X and XI to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, thus contributing to increased transparency and accountability of the Office;

68. *Notes with appreciation* the views expressed by the Office of the President of the General Assembly to the Ad Hoc Working Group on the strengthening of the accountability, transparency and institutional memory of the Office of the President and its relationship with the Secretariat and the measures already undertaken in this regard, while continuing to explore additional measures where feasible, and notes the support provided by the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Affairs Division of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of the Secretariat to the Office of the President;

69. *Encourages* the Presidents of the General Assembly to continue the practice of periodically briefing Member States on their activities, including official travel;

70. *Commends* the initiative of convening a retreat on the strengthening of the General Assembly, which brings together the incoming and outgoing presidencies of each session of the Assembly, and in this regard takes note of the summary of the proceedings of the retreat held on 19 July 2016;[9]

71. *Also commends* the steps taken by the Office of the President of the General Assembly, assisted by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, to develop a standardized format for the written handover summary of best practices and lessons learned, welcomes with appreciation the provision of a handover report from the President of the Assembly at its seventieth session to his successor, which was transmitted to all Member States, and requests future Presidents of the Assembly to continue this practice;

72. *Supports* the efforts made thus far in archiving and record-keeping by the Office of the President of the General Assembly, with the assistance of the Archives and Records Management Section of the Department of Management of the Secretariat, and stresses the need to continue to consider methods to effectively preserve the institutional memory of the Office;

73. *Decides*, in full respect of the established principle of geographical rotation and its resolution 33/138 of 19 December 1978, to conduct informal interactive dialogues with candidates for the position of President of the General Assembly, thus contributing to the transparency and inclusivity of the process, and calls upon candidates to present to the Assembly their vision statements;

74. *Stresses* the need to promote and ensure gender balance throughout the United Nations system, and in this regard invites Member States to consider presenting women as candidates for the position of President of the General Assembly, and encourages Presidents-elect to continue to ensure respect for balanced gender and geographical representation in the Office of the President of the General Assembly;

75. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Ad Hoc Working Group at the seventy-second session of the General Assembly on the sources of funding and staffing of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, including on any technical, logistical, protocol-related or financial questions, and for more clarification on the budgetary basis for the provision of such support by the Secretariat;

76. *Emphasizes* the need to ensure, from within agreed resources, that the Office of the President of the General Assembly is allocated dedicated Secretariat staff, with responsibility to, in an efficient and capable manner, coordinate the transition between Presidents, manage interactions between the President and the Secretary-General and preserve institutional memory, welcomes the provision by Member States of staff from their respective Permanent Missions to be seconded to the Office of the President, and encourages the continuation of this existing good practice;

[9] See A/71/933.

77. *Recalls* its request to the Secretary-General and its invitation to the heads of specialized agencies, funds and programmes, upon request by the President of the General Assembly, to consider seconding staff to work in the Office of the President of the General Assembly on a more systematic basis;

78. *Notes* that the activities of the President of the General Assembly have increased markedly in recent years, recalls provisions regarding support for the Office of the President of the General Assembly in previous resolutions, and expresses continued interest in seeking ways to further support the Office, in accordance with existing procedures, in particular rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, as well as to continue discussions within the Ad Hoc Working Group on further steps to strengthen the Office;

79. *Recalls its request* that the Secretary-General submit, in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, proposals to review the budget allocation of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, in accordance with existing procedures and taking into account the deliberations of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the issue, and in this connection looks forward to considering such proposals during the main part of its seventy-second session;

80. *Welcomes* the decision by the Secretary-General to make non-staff programme budget resources available to Presidents of the General Assembly from the date of their election;

81. *Stresses* the importance of the contributions of Member States to the trust fund in support of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, and in this regard notes with appreciation the contributions that have been made to the fund, and encourages Member States to continue to contribute to the fund and to allow for unspent contributions from previous sessions to be made available for succeeding terms;

82. *Welcomes* the establishment of the practice of vetting all contributions from sources other than Member States through the Ethics Office, and urges adherence to this practice;

83. *Reiterates its call* for non-in-kind contributions to be channelled through the trust fund, and welcomes the steps taken in this regard by the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-first session;

84. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, in cooperation with the Secretariat, to report to the Ad Hoc Working Group at the seventy-second session of the Assembly on the implementation of all mandates accorded to him under the present resolution and previous relevant resolutions.

96th plenary meeting
8 September 2017